

Rising Fourth Grade Summer Reading Suggestions 2026



***Forgotten Five* by Lisa McMann (sci-fi/fantasy)**

Fifteen years ago, eight supernatural criminals fled Estero City to make a new life in an isolated tropical hideout. Over time, seven of them disappeared without a trace, presumed captured or killed. And now, the remaining one has died.

Left behind to fend for themselves are the criminals' five children, each with superpowers of their own: Birdie can communicate with animals. Brix has athletic abilities and can heal quickly. Tenner can swim like a fish and can see in the dark and hear from a distance. Seven's skin camouflages to match whatever is around him. Cabot hasn't shown signs of any unusual power—yet.



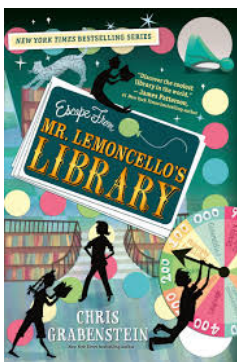
***Wish* by Barbara O'Connor (realistic fiction)**

Eleven-year-old Charlie Reese has been making the same secret wish every day since fourth grade. She even has a list of all the ways there are to make the wish, such as cutting off the pointed end of a slice of pie and wishing on it as she takes the last bite. But when she is sent to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina to live with family she barely knows, it seems unlikely that her wish will ever come true. That is until she meets Wishbone, a skinny stray dog who captures her heart, and Howard, a neighbor boy who proves surprising in lots of ways. Suddenly Charlie is in serious danger of discovering that what she thought she wanted may not be what she needs at all.



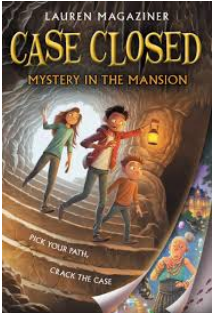
***Rescue at Lake Wild* by Terry Lynn Johnson (realistic fiction)**

Everyone knows that twelve-year-old Madison "Madi" Lewis is not allowed to bring home any more animals. After she's saved hairless mice, two birds, a rabbit, and a stray tom cat that ended up destroying the front porch, Madi's parents decide that if they find one more stray animal in the house, she won't be allowed to meet Jane Goodall at an upcoming gala event. But when Madi and her two best friends, Aaron and Jack, rescue beaver kits whose mother was killed, they find themselves at the center of a local conspiracy that's putting the beavers and their habitats in danger.



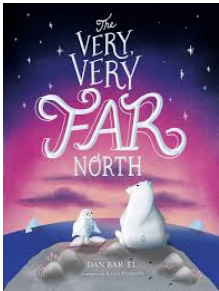
***Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein (mystery)**

When Kyle Keeley learns that the world's most famous game maker, Luigi Lemoncello, has designed the town's new library and is having an invitation-only lock-in on opening night, he's determined to be there! But the tricky part isn't getting *into* the library—it's getting *out*. Because when morning comes, the doors stay locked. Kyle and the other kids must catch every clue and solve every puzzle to find the hidden escape route!



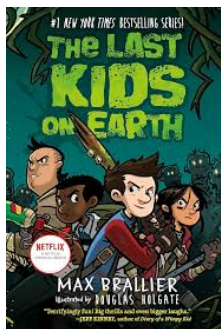
Case Closed by Lauren Magaziner (mystery)

Pick-your-own-path and puzzle-packed mystery collide in the first book in Lauren Magaziner's hilarious and high-stakes four-book middle grade series in which the reader must help Carlos and his friends put together the clues to save his mom's detective agency. In this wildly entertaining and interactive adventure, YOU pick which suspects to interview, which questions to ask, and which clues to follow. You pick the path—you crack the case! Carlos Serrano has never solved a mystery in his life. But when Carlos's mom gets sick with a flu on the morning of an investigation that could save her failing detective agency, Carlos takes on the case. With the help of his best friend, Eliza, and her wild little brother, Frank, Carlos must uncover a mystery involving an eccentric local millionaire, anonymous death threats, and a buried treasure. But with tricky riddles, cagey suspects, hidden secrets, and dozens of impossible choices, they need your help!



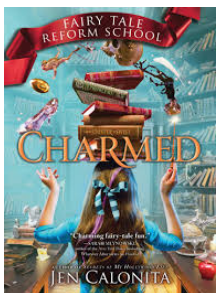
Very Very Far North by Dan Bar-El (fantasy)

In the Very, Very Far North, past the Cold, Cold Ocean and just below the hill that looks like a baby whale, you'll find Duane and his friends. Duane is a sweet and curious young bear who makes friends with everyone he meets—whether they're bossy, like Major Puff the puffin, or a bit vain, like Handsome the musk ox, or very, very shy, like Boo the caribou. For these arctic friends, every day is a new adventure!



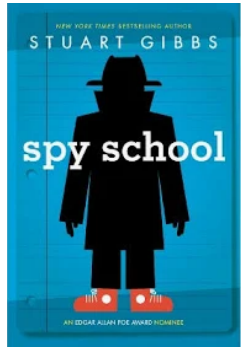
The Last Kids on Earth by Max Brallier (dystopian)

Ever since the monster apocalypse hit town, average thirteen year old Jack Sullivan has been living in his tree house, which he's armed to the teeth with catapults and a moat, not to mention video games and an endless supply of Oreos and Mountain Dew scavenged from abandoned stores. But Jack alone is no match for the hordes of Zombies and Winged Wretches and Vine Thingies, and especially not for the eerily intelligent monster known only as Blarg. So Jack builds a team: his dorky best friend, Quint; the reformed middle school bully, Dirk; Jack's loyal pet monster, Rover; and the fiercest girl Jack knows, June. With their help, Jack is going to slay Blarg, achieve the ultimate Feat of Apocalyptic Success, and be average no longer! **Can he do it?** Told in a mixture of text and black-and-white illustration, this is the perfect series for any kid who's ever dreamed of starring in their own comic book or video game.



Charmed by Jen Calonita (fantasy)

Sometimes it's good to be bad...It takes a (mostly) reformed thief to catch a spy. Which is why Gilly Cobbler, Enchantasia's most notorious pickpocket, volunteers to stay locked up at Fairy Tale Reform School...indefinitely. Gilly and her friends may have defeated the Evil Queen and become reluctant heroes, but the battle for Enchantasia has just begun. Alva, aka The Wicked One who cursed Sleeping Beauty, has declared war on the Princesses, and she wants the students of Fairy Tale Reform School to join her. As her criminal classmates give in to temptation, Gilly goes undercover as a Royal Lady in Waiting (don't laugh) to unmask a spy...before the mole can hand Alva the keys to the kingdom.

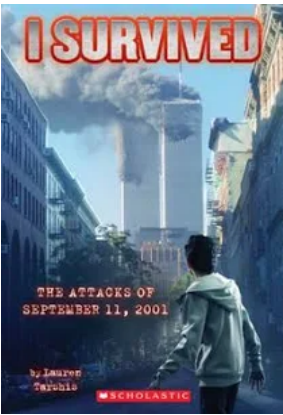


Spy School by Stuart Gibbs (mystery)

Ben Ripley may only be in middle school, but he's already pegged his dream job: CIA or bust. Unfortunately for him, his personality doesn't exactly scream "secret agent." In fact, Ben is so awkward, he can barely get to school and back without a mishap. Because of his innate nerdiness, Ben is not surprised when he is recruited for a magnet school with a focus on science—but he's entirely shocked to discover that the school is actually a front for a junior CIA academy. Could the CIA really want him?

I Survived (historical fiction)

History's most exciting and terrifying events come to life in these ten books in the *New York Times* bestselling I Survived series. When disaster strikes, heroes are made. With relatable characters and riveting plotlines, the I Survived books are perfect for reluctant readers or any young reader who enjoys an action packed, page turning thriller. Each book also contains several pages of nonfiction content, encouraging readers to further explore the historical topic.



39 Clues (mystery)

The "39 Clues" series follows the journey of Amy and Dan Cahill, a sibling duo, as they compete with other members of their extended family to find 39 hidden clues. These clues unlock a powerful serum that grants immense power, and the winning family will gain unimaginable wealth and influence. The series is a globe-trotting adventure filled with mystery, adventure, and family drama, with Amy and Dan facing numerous challenges and obstacles as they seek to protect the clues and discover the secrets of their family's history.



Kensy and Max by Jacqueline Harvey (mystery)

Twins Kensy and Max Grey's lives are turned upside down when they are whisked off to London, and discover their parents are missing. As the situation unfolds, so many things don't add up: their strange new school, the bizarre grannies on their street, the coded messages they keep finding and the feeling that, all around them, adults are keeping secrets . . .



Emily windsnap by Liz Kessler (fantasy)

Half-mermaid, half-human, and all magic, Emily Windsnap has had middle-grade readers under her spell for more than a decade. All six of her shimmering underwater adventures are now available in one beautiful collection of paperbacks with a bonus twelve-page friendship booklet for readers to share with their BFFs.



Witchlings by Claribel A. Ortega (fantasy)

Every year, in the magical town of Ravenskill, Witchlings who participate in the Black Moon Ceremony are placed into covens and come into their powers as full-fledged witches.

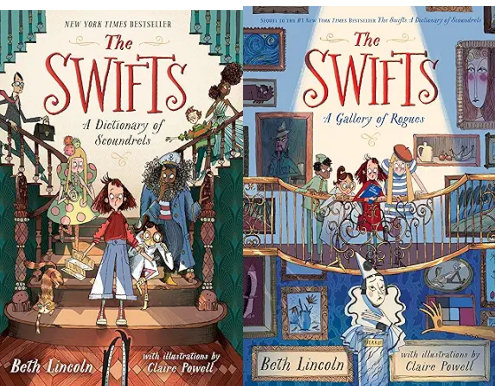
And twelve-year-old Seven Salazar can't wait to be placed in the most powerful coven with her best friend! But on the night of the ceremony, in front of the entire town, Seven isn't placed in one of the five covens. She's a Spare!

Spare covens have fewer witches, are less powerful, and are looked down on by everyone. Even worse, when Seven and the other two Spares perform the magic circle to seal their coven and cement themselves as sisters, it doesn't work! They're stuck as Witchlings—and will never be able to perform powerful magic.



Witches of Brooklyn by Sophie Escabasse (fantasy/graphic novel)

Effie's aunts are weird. Like, really weird. Really, really, REALLY weird! As soon as she moves into their gigantic house in Brooklyn, Effie senses something is up. But with a new school, new friends, and new haunting nightmares to keep her busy, how is Effie supposed to realize that they're in fact witches... and that she might possess the same magical abilities, too?



Swifts by Beth Lincoln (mystery)

Shenanigan attends the Swift family reunion, where each family member's name is a defining characteristic, but when a member is murdered, Shenanigan decides her name is not a definition and is determined to catch the killer.

World of Click- Besties by Kayla Miller (graphic novel)



This series follows the adventures of best friends as they navigate through various challenges, from solving problems to learning important life lessons. This set includes three engaging books: *Besties: Work It Out* where the friends figure out how to overcome challenges together, *Besties: Find Their Groove* which explores their growth and teamwork, and *Besties: Prank War* which brings them into a lighthearted competition. These books are perfect for young readers who love stories about friendship, teamwork, and fun.

The Misfits by Lisa Yee and Dan Santat (realistic fiction/adventure)



Olive Cobin Zang has . . . issues. And they *mostly* aren't her fault. (No, really!) Though she often slips under the radar, problems have a knack for finding her. So, imagine her doubts when she's suddenly dropped off at the strangest boarding school ever: a former castle turned prison that's now a "reforming arts school"!

But nothing could've prepared Olive for RASCH (*not* "rash"). There, she's lumped with a team of other kids who never quite fit in, and discovers that the academy isn't what it seems—and neither is she. In fact, RASCH is a cover for an elite group of misfits who fight crime . . . and Olive has arrived just in time. Turns out that RASCH is in danger of closing, unless Olive's class can stop the heist of the century. And as Olive falls in love with this wacky school, she realizes it's up to her new team to save the only home that's ever

welcomed them.



Swim Team by Jonnie Christmas

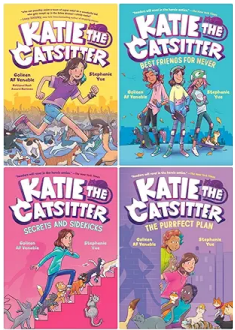
Bree can't wait for her first day at her new middle school, Enith Brigitha, home to the Mighty Manatees—until she's stuck with the only elective that fits her schedule, the dreaded Swim 101. The thought of swimming makes Bree more than a little queasy, yet she's forced to dive headfirst into one of her greatest fears. Lucky for her, Etta, an elderly occupant of her apartment building and former swim team captain, is willing to help.

With Etta's training and a lot of hard work, Bree suddenly finds her swim-crazed community counting on her to turn the school's failing team around. But that's easier said than done, especially when their rival, the prestigious Holyoke Prep, has everything they need to leave the Mighty Manatees in their wake.

***Minecraft Stoneward Saga* by Nick Eliopoulos (science fiction)**



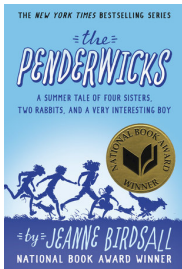
Based on the most popular video game of all time, this all-new chapter book series takes a group of intrepid Minecraft players deeper into the game than ever before. Someone—or something—has turned the Evoker King to stone. And now a new player, Theo, has joined the team on their quest to return their former enemy to normal. Theo's has coding skills that could come in handy, but does he have what it takes to be part of the team, or will his meddling put a crack in the game code that none of them will survive?



***Katie the Catsitter* by Colleen AF Venable (graphic novel)**

Twelve-year-old Katie is dreading a boring summer alone in New York City while her best friend is away at camp—something that's way out of Katie and her mom's budget. That is, unless Katie can figure out a way to earn the money for camp herself. But when Katie gets a job cat sitting for her mysterious upstairs neighbor, Madeline, life gets interesting.

For starters, Madeline has 217 cats (!) and they're not exactly . . . normal. Also, why is she always out EXACTLY when the city's most notorious villain commits crimes?! Is it possible that Katie's upstairs neighbor is really a super villain? Can Katie wrangle a whole lot of wayward cats, save a best friendship (why is Beth barely writing back? And who's this boy she keeps talking about?!), AND crack the biggest story in the city's history? Some heroes have capes . . . Katie has cats!



***The Penderwicks* by Jeanne Birdsall (realistic fiction)**

This summer the Penderwick sisters have a wonderful surprise: a holiday on the grounds of a beautiful estate called Arundel. Soon they are busy discovering the summertime magic of Arundel's sprawling gardens, treasure-filled attic, tame rabbits, and the cook who makes the best gingerbread in Massachusetts. But the best discovery of all is Jeffrey Tifton, son of Arundel's owner, who quickly proves to be the perfect companion for their adventures.